

SPAM 10657

# CONSTITUTION

## BY-LAWS

SOCIALIST PARTY OF  
CANADA



Issued by the Dominion Executive Committee

Box 1688 Vancouver, B.C.



(J.H. C. ...)

Y.H.C. ...  
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... 1913

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4

Stops.

II - ... take any ~~action~~ ...  
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IV - ... may ...  
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Local or P.S. in the party,  
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# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS



SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

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KINGSLEY,  PRINTER

# Platform

We, the Socialist Party of Canada, in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor produces all wealth, and to the producers it should belong. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is therefore master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend their property rights in the means of wealth production and their control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in the direction of setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which is cloaked the robbery of the working class at the point of production. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist

property in the means of wealth production into collective or working-class property.

The irrepressible conflict of interests between the capitalist and the worker is rapidly culminating in a struggle for possession of the reins of government—the capitalist to hold, the worker to secure it by political action. This is the class struggle.

Therefore, we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada with the object of conquering the public powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

1. The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into the collective property of the workers.
2. The Democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.
3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

The Socialist Party when in office shall always and everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will, the Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

In accordance with this principle the Socialist Party pledges itself to conduct all the public affairs placed in its hands in such a manner as to promote the interests of the working class alone.

# Constitution

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## ARTICLE 1.

Section 1. The affairs of the party are conducted by the Dominion Executive Committee, Provincial Executive Committees, Local Organizations, Party Conventions and by the general vote.

Sec. 2. Party law shall become effective only when approved by a majority of the general vote.

## ARTICLE II.

### Locals.

Section 1. Five or more persons may form a Local, provided they acknowledge the Platform and Constitution of the party and subscribe to its pledge of membership. They shall report their organization to the Provincial Executive Committee, and, with the approval of such committee, a charter shall be issued. The Local shall comply with the requirements of the Dominion Executive Committee and Provincial Executive Committee as to financial and other reports. OK.

Application for charter must be made upon form provided by the Dominion Executive Committee. In addition to dues for current month, each application for charter must be accompanied by a fee of \$5 to cover expense of all necessary supplies. OK.

~~Sec. 2. Where convenient, any Local may, within its own riding, organize branch Locals under its charter, with the approval of the Provincial Executive Committee. Such branches shall~~

be considered a part of the Local holding the charter, and shall consist of at least five members.

2 Sec. 3. Where it is found necessary to have more than one Local in a riding the said Locals shall, in matters of mutual interest, take joint action by correspondence, or when necessary by means of a joint committee elected by the Locals upon the basis of their membership. A general vote of their membership shall be decisive in all purely local affairs. ✓

Sec. 4. Complete Local autonomy, within the limits of the Constitution, shall prevail. No Local shall have jurisdiction over another, or shall interfere in its local affairs. ✓

Sec. 5. Secretaries of Locals shall make quarterly reports to the Provincial Executive Committee. ~~Locals failing to make such reports shall be suspended.~~

Sec. 6. Every applicant for membership shall fill out and sign an application as follows: ✓

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership in Local....., Province of ..... S. P. of Canada.

I recognize the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class to be a struggle for political supremacy, i. e., possession of the reins of government, and which necessitates the organization of the workers into a political party distinct from and opposed to all ~~parties of the capitalist class.~~

If admitted to membership I hereby agree to maintain or enter into no relations with any other political party, and pledge myself to support, by all legitimate means, the ticket and program



of the S. P. of Canada and its international affiliations only, *to abide by the constitution*

....., Applicant. ...., Occupation. ...., Age. ...., Address. ...., ~~Citizen~~ Admitted to Local..... 19....

....., Chairman.  
....., Rec. Sec'y.

No person under the age of eighteen shall be admitted to membership.

Sec. 7. The Local shall collect from its members a monthly tax of at least ten cents, which shall be receipted for by stamps purchased from the Provincial Executive Committee, or where no Provincial Executive Committee exists from the Dominion Executive Committee, at ten cents each, and in no other manner. The Secretary shall affix stamps to member's card, and cancel same by writing amount paid across face of stamp in ink over his initials. ✓

No discrimination shall be made as to monthly tax or assessments, except as provided in Section 8, Article II. ✓

9. Sec. 8. Members who have withheld payment of dues for more than two months shall be suspended from all rights until they have fulfilled their obligations. To reinstate themselves by such payment of such back dues they must first obtain permission from a regular business meeting of the Local. Sick or unemployed members may be excused from payment of dues upon application to a regular business meeting of the Local. ✓

Sec. 9. Any direct violation of the pledge of membership or of party law shall be considered warrant for suspension or expulsion, notice of

motion of special meeting to deal with charges being duly given. It shall require a majority vote of all members in attendance in a Local to suspend, or a two-thirds majority to expel any member, but the formal and public expulsion shall be in the hands of the Dominion Executive Committee. The expelled member shall have the right of appeal to the Provincial or Dominion Executive Committee, and from those bodies to the general vote of the Province in which he resides, or to the general vote of the Dominion.

All expulsions and suspensions shall be at once reported to the Provincial Executive Committee.

No expelled or suspended member shall be accorded the privilege of a member of the party by any ~~branch~~ Local or committee, unless the bar of expulsion or suspension has been removed by the Local expelling or suspending such member, with the endorsement of the Dominion Executive Committee.

Sec. 10. In case of dissolution of any Local ALL property of the same must be delivered to the Provincial Executive Committee, or where no such committee exists to the Dominion Executive Committee.

Sec. 11. No Local shall enter into any compromise with any other political party, nor furnish financial aid to any other organization.

### ARTICLE III.

#### Provincial Executive Committee.

Section 1. The Provincial Executive Committee shall be composed of seven members, to be elected by a general vote of the membership of the ~~riding~~ wherein is located the seat of the com.

*electoral district*

mittee. The committee shall elect from its members a Recording Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as it deems necessary. The duties of the Recording Secretary, Secretary and Treasurer shall be the same as set forth in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the By-Laws. It shall be the duty of the Local electing the committee to suspend any member thereof who may be guilty of neglect of duty, to elect a temporary successor in place of such suspended member, and to submit such action, with reasons therefor, to a general vote of the party.

Any Local outside of seat of committee may add to the membership of the committee by sending one delegate whenever it desires to do so.

Sec. 2. The members of the Provincial Executive shall be elected for the term of one year, but may be re-elected at the expiration thereof. The election shall take place between November 1st and December 15th of each year, the term of office beginning with January 1st following.

Sec. 3. The Provincial Executive Committee has for its duty—

(a) To supervise the agitation throughout the Province.

(b) To receive propositions relating to Provincial affairs sent from any Local and submit the same to the Locals of the Province for endorsement. ~~If endorsed by a majority of the Locals, to submit said proposition to a general vote of the Province.~~ *new*

(c) To make all preparations for the Provincial convention and make a full report to such convention on all party matters.

(d) To issue to the Locals semi-annually and

in a sufficient number of copies a report of party finances.

(e) To be represented in the Provincial convention by one of its members, who shall have no vote, but merely an advisory voice in the proceedings, and shall bear no other credentials, and shall produce books, vouchers and receipts in connection with the Secretary's office for examination.

(f) To employ organizers to further the interests of the party, the committee to be held responsible for the qualification ~~and~~ efficiency of such.

Sec. 4. The Provincial Executive Committee may compensate its officers according to the labor performed by them from the treasury of the party.

~~Sec. 5. The Provincial Executive Committee~~ shall also have the power to draft legislation to be introduced by party representatives in the Houses of Legislation.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### Dominion Executive Committee.

Section 1. The Dominion Executive Committee has for its duty—

(a) To carry out the wishes of the party as expressed in its platform, Constitution and by general vote.

(b) To supervise the agitation throughout the Dominion.

(c) To establish and maintain proper relation and communication with the Socialist parties of other countries.

(d) To receive any proposition relating to Dominion affairs sent from any Provincial Executive Committee and submit the same to the Provincial Executives of the Dominion for endorsation. If endorsed by a majority of the Executives, to submit said propositions to a general vote of the Dominion. ✓

(e) To make all necessary preparations for the Dominion convention and make a full report to such convention on all party matters. ✓

(f) To be represented in the Dominion convention by one of its members, who shall have no vote, but an advisory voice in the proceedings, and shall produce books, vouchers and receipts in connection with the Secretary's office for examination. ✓

(g) To formulate and adopt a uniform system of financial and other records, including Secretary's books, vouchers, reports, application blanks, etc., and to furnish all such supplies to Provincial Executive Committees at actual cost of same.

(h) To furnish due-stamps to Provincial Executive Committees at the rate of five cents each, and to Locals, where no Provincial Executive Committee exists, at the rate of ten cents each. ✓

(i) To employ organizers to further the interests of the party, the committee to be held strictly responsible for the qualification and efficiency of such. ✓

Sec. 2. The Dominion Executive Committee may compensate its officers, according to the labor performed by them, from the treasury of the party. ✓

Sec. 3. Until a Dominion convention is held

and other arrangements made the Provincial Executive Committee of British Columbia shall act as the Dominion Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE V.

### Conventions.

Section 1. A Provincial convention shall be held whenever necessary. A general vote of the membership of the Province shall be taken ~~each year between March 1st and June 1st~~ to decide upon the necessity and approximate date of holding a convention, and where it shall be held.

✓ Sec. 2. Each Local shall be entitled to send one delegate, and an additional delegate for each twenty members or major portion thereof in good standing. Delegates must be members of the Local they are elected to represent. Delegates shall be allowed to vote by proxy for members of their own Local only.

✓ Sec. 3. The Provincial convention shall select the seat of the Provincial Executive Committee and investigate and decide all difficulties with the party in its own jurisdiction.

✓ Sec. 4. The Dominion convention shall decide the form of organization and draft the party platform.

✓ Sec. 5. The place of holding the first Dominion convention and basis of representation thereto may be decided by Provincial Executive Committees acting under Article IV., Section 1, Sub-Section d.

✓ Sec. 6. All acts of the conventions shall be submitted to the Locals for general vote.

## ARTICLE VI.

## Referendums.

Section 1. A referendum shall be taken on any proposed amendment to the platform or Constitution, or on any matter of general interest to the party.

In order to avoid unnecessary labor only matters of immediate interest should be submitted to the Executive Committee for a referendum.

Sec. 2. If the Executive Committee decides that the matter is not of sufficient or immediate interest, the proposition shall not be submitted to the Locals for endorsement, and the reason for such action shall be included in the published minutes. ~~If any Local deems the position taken in the matter by the Executive Committee incorrect the matter shall be submitted for final decision to the next party convention.~~

Sec. 3. Locals initiating a referendum shall supply the Executive Committee with a ~~sufficient number of copies~~ of the subject matter of referendum.

Sec. 2.  
not  
?

## By-laws

## LOCALS.

Section 1. The Local shall be the unit of organization. It shall at every meeting elect a Chairman, ~~who shall observe the national and~~ ~~mentary rules.~~

Sec. 2. The Local shall elect from its membership an Organizer, Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as it deems necessary.

all  
✓

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall keep all financial records and conduct the correspondence. He shall receive all monies for the organization and turn same over to the Treasurer, accepting his receipt therefor.

Sec. 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer shall act as custodian of the funds. He shall make payment on behalf of the organization only under properly drawn warrants, signed by the Chairman and Recording Secretary of the meeting ordering payment. At the end of each calendar month he shall turn over to the Secretary all paid warrants, accepting his receipt therefor.

Sec. 6. The officers of the Local shall be elected for the term of one year, but may be re-elected at expiration thereof. The election of officers shall take place during the month of December, term of office to be from first of January following.

Sec. 7. Locals shall have jurisdiction over their own members.

Should a protest be entered against the admission to a Local of any applicant for membership a two-thirds vote of all present at a regular business meeting shall be necessary to admit him.

Sec. 8. The Local shall hold at least one business meeting each month.

Special meetings shall be called only at the request of five members. Such request shall be made in writing to the Secretary, who shall notify all members of such special meeting.



Sec. 9. The result of every election of officers within the Local must be communicated at once to the Provincial Executive Committee, or where no such committee exists to the Dominion Executive Committee.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Sec. 10. All officers, boards and committees of the party shall be subject to removal by their constituents. (See Article III, Section 1, as to Provincial Executive Committee.)

Sec. 11. A member in good standing of one Local shall have the right to attend and speak at any meeting of ~~another~~ Local, but shall not be allowed to vote. *any*

Sec. 12. No person shall be nominated as candidate for any public office unless he has been a member of the party for at least six months, and has identified himself with the party by active participation in its work.

Sec. 13. No candidate of the party for any public office shall be permitted to accept any nomination or endorsement from any other political party, and individual candidates receiving personal endorsement shall disclaim responsibility for same from the public platform. *see*

Sec. 14. Any violation of the provisions of the Constitution by a Local shall be deemed sufficient warrant to empower the Executive Committee to revoke its charter.

Sec. 15. The order of business at all business meetings of the party shall be as follows: *(R.F.)*

1. Election of Officers.

2. Reading of Minutes.
  3. Application for Membership.
  4. Correspondence and Bills.
  5. Report of Organizer.
  6. Report of Committees.
  7. Unfinished Business.
  8. New Business.
  9. Good of the Movement.
  10. Financial Reports.
- Adjournment.

Sec. 16. <sup>7</sup> The accounts of the Provincial Executive Committee shall be audited at the end of each half year. The Local electing Provincial Executive Committee shall provide Auditors. The findings of such audit shall be embodied in the semi-annual report of the Provincial Executive Committee.

✓ Sec. 17. Each Local shall provide for the auditing of its accounts semi-annually. All accounts and records of the party shall be open to inspection by any member in good standing upon due notice to the officer in charge.

Sec. 18. When a vacancy occurs in any public office within the patronage of a party representative, he shall submit the same to the Local of his riding for nomination by general vote.

Section 19. The transportation of delegates to convention shall be paid from party funds, and Executive Committees may levy assessments for such purpose if necessary.

Sec. 20. All propaganda literature of the party shall be issued by authority of the Dominion Executive Committee alone.

Sec. 21. These Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a regular convention, subject to a referendum vote of the party membership, a majority vote being sufficient to amend.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE

In order to affiliate with the Socialist Party of Canada, the first requisite is to become thoroughly informed as to the necessity of the political organization of the workers on strictly class lines. This calls for some study of Socialist literature in order to be able to grasp at least the fundamental principles of capitalist economics, and the reasons for increasing poverty among the workers alongside of increasing wealth and power in the hands of the capitalists. It is of the utmost importance to become familiar with the program and principles of the Socialist Party of Canada by a careful reading of its platform, Constitution and other literature, which may be obtained from Locals, Provincial or Dominion Executive Committees.

Having become convinced of the soundness of the party's position and the correctness of its program, write the Provincial Executive Committee—or the Dominion Executive Committee, where Provincial organization exists—for a copy of the regular charter application form used by the party.

Five or more persons may make application for a charter by signing and forward such application to the Provincial Executive Committee, or where no Provincial organizations exists to the Dominion Executive Committee, accompanied by 10 cents for each signer to cover the current month's dues and \$5 to cover the expense of supplies, in-

cluding charter, warrants, membership cards, etc.

Upon receipt of charter proceed to elect officers as laid down in Article II. of the party Constitution. At each business meeting follow out the order of business as laid down in Article VI.

It would be well to devote the first business meetings of the Local to becoming thoroughly familiar with all of the provisions of the party Constitution, platform, etc. When this is well in hand the work of spreading the propaganda by holding public meetings, circulating literature and other means should be taken up.

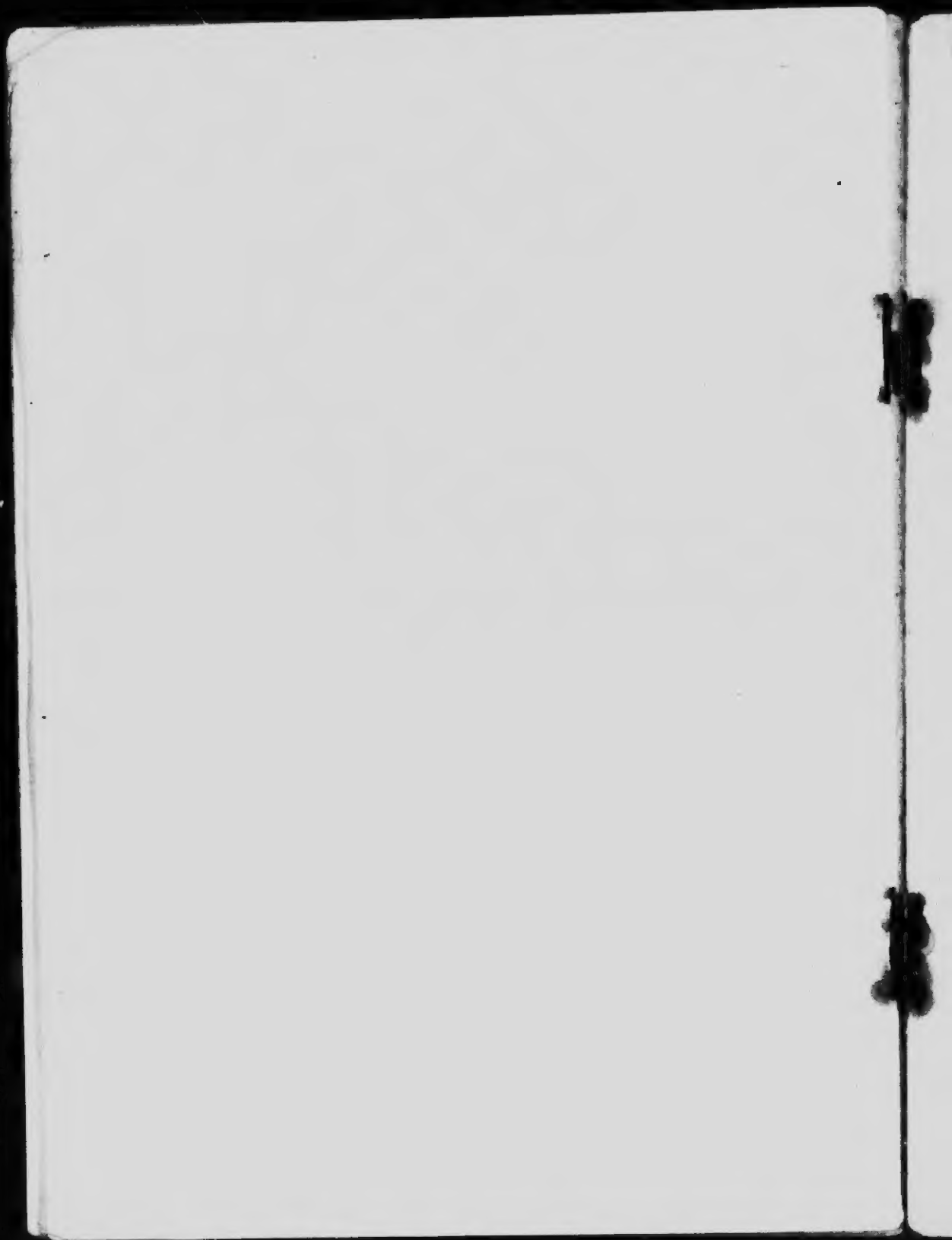
A Local, from its inception, should train itself to attend as closely as possible to such work as legitimately belongs to it. It should learn to be accurate and methodical in keeping its records, both financial and otherwise, in making reports to the party committees and in attending to correspondence. It should be strict in requiring its officers to give close attention to their duties; it should give close attention and scrutiny to all reports made by the Dominion or Provincial Executive Committees, thus keeping closely in touch with and well informed in regard to all party work.

Locals should realize that a continually increasing volume of work is falling upon the Executive Committee of the party, a burden which they will make easier if they refrain from fault-finding, suspicion and distrust. A measure of confidence must of necessity be placed in officials, and it is but fair to assume that they will attend to their duties and carry out their instructions as closely and completely as possible under the circumstances surrounding them.

It can not be too strongly impressed upon Locals and party members that energy expended in

spreading party propaganda and building up the party in their respective localities will prove more productive of good than picking flaws with party officers, committees and representatives, or bothering them with unreasonable or ridiculous requests. The pernicious activity of a few who are qualified to find fault and pick flaws can easily nullify the work of the many who are actuated solely by a desire to build up the organization by furthering the work.

The Socialist Party of Canada has to deal with a population scattered over a vast territory. It has a stupendous task to perform. If its members be guided in their actions by reason and good judgment the task may be speedily accomplished, and the Canadian workingmen come into control of Canadian industry and resources, a position that properly belongs to them by virtue of both usefulness and numbers.



Assessment Clause.

*Read*

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